

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JERMAINE ROBERT BLAIR,
Plaintiff,
v.
VISS, et al.,
Defendants.

No. 2:22-cv-00670 KJM DB P

FURTHER SCHEDULING ORDER

Plaintiff is a federal inmate proceeding pro se with a civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Plaintiff alleges that defendants Viss, Cox, Anaya, and Ruiz used excessive force against him. Further, Plaintiff alleges defendants Francisco-Justo and Reynolds failed to protect him. Motions for summary judgment in this matter have been resolved. (See ECF Nos. 30, 31.) Good cause appearing, the court will, by this order, set a further schedule for this litigation.

The parties will be required to file pretrial statements in accordance with the schedule set forth below. Local Rule 281 sets out the requirements for a pretrial statement. Subsection (b)(16) of that rule requires the parties to inform the court whether they feel a settlement conference may be beneficial. The parties shall also inform the court whether, if a settlement conference is ordered, the undersigned magistrate judge may preside over the settlement conference or whether another magistrate judge should do so.

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1 As set forth in this court's initial scheduling order, in addition to the matters already
2 required to be addressed in the pretrial statement in accordance with Local Rule 281, plaintiff will
3 be required to make a particularized showing in the pretrial statement in order to obtain the
4 attendance of witnesses. Plaintiff is advised that failure to comply with the procedures set forth
5 below may result in the preclusion of any and all witnesses named in the pretrial statement.

6 At the trial of this case, plaintiff must be prepared to introduce evidence to prove each of
7 the alleged facts that support the claims raised in the lawsuit. In general, there are two kinds of
8 trial evidence: (1) exhibits and (2) the testimony of witnesses. It is plaintiff's responsibility to
9 produce all of the evidence to prove the case, whether that evidence is in the form of exhibits or
10 witness testimony. If plaintiff wants to call witnesses to testify, plaintiff must follow certain
11 procedures to ensure that the witnesses will be at the trial and available to testify.

12 I. Procedures for Obtaining Attendance of Incarcerated Witnesses Who Agree to
13 Testify Voluntarily

14 An incarcerated witness who agrees voluntarily to attend trial to give testimony cannot
15 come to court unless this court orders the warden or other custodian to permit the witness to be
16 transported to court. This court will not issue such an order unless it is satisfied that:

- 17 1. The prospective witness is willing to attend;
18 and
19 2. The prospective witness has actual knowledge of relevant facts.

20 With the pretrial statement, a party intending to introduce the testimony of incarcerated
21 witnesses who have agreed voluntarily to attend the trial must serve and file a written motion for
22 a court order requiring that such witnesses be brought to court at the time of trial.

23 The motion must:

- 24 1. State the name and address of each such witness;
25 and
26 2. Be accompanied by affidavits showing that each witness is willing to testify
27 and that each witness has actual knowledge of relevant facts.

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1 The willingness of the prospective witness can be shown in one of two ways:

2 1. The party can swear by affidavit that the prospective witness has informed the
3 party that he is willing to testify voluntarily without being subpoenaed. The party
4 must state in the affidavit when and where the prospective witness informed the
5 party of this willingness;

6 Or

7 2. The party can serve and file an affidavit sworn to by the prospective witness, in
8 which the witness states that he or she is willing to testify without being
9 subpoenaed.

10 The prospective witness's actual knowledge of relevant facts can be shown in one of two
11 ways:

12 1. The party can swear by affidavit that the prospective witness has actual
13 knowledge. However, this can be done only if the party has actual firsthand
14 knowledge that the prospective witness was an eyewitness or an ear-witness to the
15 relevant facts. For example, if an incident occurred in plaintiff's cell and, at the
16 time, plaintiff saw that a cellmate was present and observed the incident, the
17 plaintiff may swear to the cellmate's ability to testify.

18 Or

19 2. The party can serve and file an affidavit sworn to by the prospective witness in
20 which the witness describes the relevant facts to which the prospective witness
21 was an eye- or ear-witness. Whether the affidavit is made by plaintiff or by the
22 prospective witness, it must be specific about what the incident was, when and
23 where it occurred, who was present, and how the prospective witness happened to
24 be in a position to see or to hear what occurred at the time it occurred.

25 The court will review and rule on the motion for attendance of incarcerated witnesses,
26 specifying which prospective witnesses must be brought to court. Subsequently, the court will
27 issue the order necessary to cause the witness's custodian to bring the witness to court.

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II. Procedures for Obtaining Attendance of Incarcerated Witnesses Who Refuse to Testify Voluntarily

If a party seeks to obtain the attendance of incarcerated witnesses who refuse to testify voluntarily, the party should submit with the pretrial statement a motion for the attendance of such witnesses. Such motion should be in the form described above. In addition, the party must indicate in the motion that the incarcerated witnesses are not willing to testify voluntarily.

III. Procedures for Obtaining Attendance of Unincarcerated Witnesses Who Agree to Testify Voluntarily

It is the responsibility of the party who has secured an unincarcerated witness's voluntary attendance to notify the witness of the time and date of trial. No action need be sought or obtained from the court.

IV. Procedures for Obtaining Attendance of Unincarcerated Witnesses Who Refuse to Testify Voluntarily

If a prospective witness is not incarcerated, and he or she refuses to testify voluntarily, not earlier than four weeks and not later than two weeks before trial, the party must prepare and submit to the United States Marshal a subpoena for service by the Marshal upon the witness. Also, the party seeking the witness's presence must tender an appropriate sum of money to the witness through the United States Marshal. In the case of an unincarcerated witness, the appropriate sum of money is the daily witness fee of \$40.00 plus the witness's travel expenses.

A subpoena will not be served by the United States Marshal upon an unincarcerated witness unless the subpoena is accompanied by a money order made payable to the witness for the full amount of the witness's travel expenses plus the daily witness fee of \$40.00. As noted earlier, because no statute authorizes the use of public funds for these expenses in civil cases, the tendering of witness fees and travel expenses is required even if the party was granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis.

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Good cause appearing, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b), THIS COURT ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Discovery is closed.
2. Law and motion is closed.
3. Plaintiff shall file and serve his pretrial statement and any motions necessary to obtain the attendance of witnesses at trial on or before May 27, 2024. Defendants shall file their pretrial statement on or before June 17, 2024. The parties are advised that failure to file a pretrial statement may result in the imposition of sanctions, including dismissal of this action.
4. The court will issue a final pretrial order after review of the pretrial statements.

Dated: April 25, 2024



DEBORAH BARNES
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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